

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A manufacturing method of an optical fiber having one or more holes extending along the axis comprising:

a first ~~process for~~ step comprising forming said one or more holes in a preform,
a second ~~process for~~ step comprising heating the preform and drying the inside of the holes,
and
a third ~~process for~~ step comprising drawing the preform into an optical fiber,
wherein said third step comprises controlling a pressure of a gas in said one or more holes in said preform using a pressure-controlling device.

2. (Currently Amended) A manufacturing method of an optical fiber according to claim 1, wherein:

at least a part of the one or more holes are through-holes; ~~and~~
the second ~~process~~ step is performed on a drawing tower while a dry gas is flowed through the through-holes; ~~and~~
the third step is performed on said drawing tower.

3. (Currently Amended) A manufacturing method of an optical fiber according to claim 1, wherein:

at least a part of the one or more holes ~~have~~ are holes having a closed end; ~~and~~
the second ~~process~~ step is performed on a drawing tower while the holes having a closed end are filled with a dry gas; ~~and~~
the third step is performed on said drawing tower.

4. (Currently Amended) A manufacturing method of an optical fiber according to claim 3, wherein:

~~the process a~~ step for filling a dry gas into the holes having a closed end and ~~the process a~~ step for discharging the dry gas from the holes having a closed end are repeated alternately in the second ~~process~~ step.

5. (Currently Amended) A manufacturing method of an optical fiber according to claim 1, wherein:

at least a part of the one or more holes are holes having ~~have~~ a closed end; and
the second ~~process~~ step is performed while the inside of the one or more holes having a closed end is subjected to reduced pressure for ~~evacuationing~~ evacuation.

6. (Currently Amended) A manufacturing method of an optical fiber according to claim 1, wherein:

the preform is heated at a temperature equal to or higher than 800°C in the second ~~process~~ step.

7. (Original) A manufacturing method of an optical fiber according to claim 2 or 3, wherein:

the dew point of the dry gas is -50°C or lower.

8. (Currently Amended) A manufacturing method of an optical fiber according to ~~claim~~ 7 claims 2 or 3, wherein:

the dry gas includes an inert gas equal to or more than 85% by molar fraction.

9. (Original) A manufacturing method of an optical fiber according to claim 8, wherein:

the inert gas is selected from a group consisting of N₂, He and Ar.

10. (Currently Amended) A manufacturing method of an optical fiber according to ~~claim~~
7 claims 2 or 3, wherein:

the dry gas includes an active gas which has dehydration effect.

11. (Original) A manufacturing method of an optical fiber according to claim 10,
wherein:

the active gas having dehydration effect includes at least one of HF, F₂, Cl₂, and CO.

12. (Currently Amended) A manufacturing method of an optical fiber according to claim
1, wherein:

the inner wall surfaces of the holes of the preform are smoothed prior to the second
~~process~~ step.

13. (Currently Amended) A manufacturing method of an optical fiber according to claim
1, wherein:

the inner wall surfaces of the holes of the preform are subjected to dry etching prior to the
second ~~process~~ step.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~A manufacturing method of an optical fiber according to claim 1, wherein:~~ A manufacturing method of an optical fiber having one or more holes extending along the axis, comprising:

a first step for forming said one or more holes in a preform;
a second step for heating the preform and drying the inside of the holes; and
a third step for drawing the preform into an optical fiber, wherein
said one or more holes in said preform is filled with a gas having a pressure and
connected to a pressure-controlling means that affects said pressure during the third step,
the pressure in the holes is adjusted during to the third process.

15. (Currently Amended) A manufacturing method of an optical fiber according to claim 1, wherein:

the preform having the holes is formed from a columnar glass rod, by means of drilling
using a perforation tool in the first ~~process~~ step.

16. (Currently Amended) A manufacturing method of an optical fiber according to claim 1, wherein:

said first step for forming said one or more holes in a preform comprises assembling a plurality of capillary tubes into a bundle and inserting the bundle into a jacketing pipe ~~a plurality of capillary tubes are assembled to form a bundle and the bundle is inserted into a jacketing pipe to form the preform having the holes in the first.~~

Claims 17-23 (Cancelled)